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# The DAWN

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# Fighting in North Malaya

## NEW DEFENCE LINE TAKEN UP

The British retreat south of the river Krian in Malaya has increased the danger to Penang, it was stated in authoritative quarters in London on Thursday. Troops, south of Kedah, were successfully disengaged during the night and are now reorganizing south of the Krian river, which runs along the southern border of the Kedah province.

*Information reaching London shows that there was continuation of Japanese shelling and bombing of Hong Kong. British artillery dispersed Japanese troop concentrations and transport on the mainland and silenced two sections of artillery.*

A *communique* issued in Singapore on Thursday morning states:

"During the night our troops in South Kedah and the province of Wellesley successfully disengaged and are now reorganizing south of Singei Krian. Yesterday there was some fighting in the vicinity of Grik, but no enemy activity in that area was reported this morning. In Klantan, an attack on our position has been driven off with heavy casualties to the enemy. No enemy air activity was reported during the night."

### Raid on Penang

"During the period up to the early morning of December 16 in Malaya the enemy's main effort was still directed at North Malaya although there are possibilities of fresh landings on the coast being attempted," states Chunking Radio. During air-raids directed at Penang four enemy planes were shot down. Reports have been received that some Japanese troops are wearing civilian clothes in their attempts to infiltrate through the imperial defences.

Sungei Krian—the river Krian—mentioned in the Singapore *communique* flows about 30 miles south of the River Muda and forms the border between Kedah and Perak. Grik lies in northern Perak and is the terminus of the main road northwords towards the Thailand frontier.

### Border Incidents

The Army Headquarters in Burma issued a *communique* at 6-30 p.m. on Tuesday stating "One of our patrols on the Tenasserim border exchanged shots with the frontier post. There is nothing further to report."

### Allies Occupy Island In South Seas

It is learned in London that Dutch and Australian forces have entered Portuguese Timor.

It is added that the Allied forces which have entered Portuguese Timor will naturally be withdrawn as soon as conditions allow or the emergency ends.

### Hong Kong Holds On

Conditions of a full seige exit in Hong Kong. The colony is reported to be in good heart despite further bombardment by the Japanese. The Governor has been telegraphically instructed to hold on which he is doing.

# India's Part in the War

## Mr. JINNAH REITERATES LEAGUE STAND

Reiterating the All-India Muslim League's stand in regard to the prosecution of the war, Mr. M. A. Jinnah in a press interview at Bombay on Wednesday said that it was clear that neither the Viceroy nor His Majesty's Government desired India's wholehearted co-operation but merely demanded "obedience and slavish assistance without any real voice or share in the authority of the Government and the country's defence."

Mr, Jinnah referred to the grave international situation, particularly in relation to India, and said that the Muslim League by a resolution which it adopted in June, 1940, had tendered its advice to His Excellency the Viceroy and His Majesty's Government but unfortunately neither of them paid any serious heed to it but instead made an offer for the expansion of the Executive Council in August, 1940, which did not give any real share in the authority, power and control of the Government either at the Centre or in the provinces.

This offer, Mr. Jinnah recalled, beyond indicating the inclusion of two Muslim League members in the Council, gave no information regarding the total strength of the expanded Council the number of additional members, and the other parties which were going to be associated with it. No information was available as to what would happen to the Muslim League representation in the event of any other party deciding at a later stage to come in. Furthermore, no information regarding the portfolios was furnished nor was the Muslim League told what was to happen in the provinces which were administered by Governors under Section 93 of the Government of India Act,

### "A Grave Mistake"

Mr. Jinnah added: "Therefore, we had no alternative but to express our inability to accept such an offer. Since then the Viceroy, ignoring the Muslim League, decided upon the expansion of his Executive Council and the setting up of the so-called National Defence Council, and has nominated individual members. This decision was a grave mistake and is to be regretted. From this it is clear that neither the Viceroy nor His Majesty's Government desire our wholehearted co-operation but they merely demand obedience and slavish assistance without any real voice or share in the authority of the Government of India or in the defence of India. In the circumstances we are entirely helpless."

Proceeding Mr. Jinnah recalled the resolution adopted by the Working Committee of the All-India Muslim League in June, 1940. This resolution endorsed the Press statement issued by Mr. Jinnah on May 27, 1940, looked with alarm at the growing menace of Nazi aggression, stated that the proposals indicated in the statements of Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief were wholly inadequate to meet the urgent requirements of the situation, and authorized the President of the League to enter into communication with His Excellency the Viceroy with a view to exploring the possibility of devising prompt and effective measures to mobilize the country's resources for the purpose of intensifying war efforts and the defence of India.